

Private

MEMORANDUM REGARDING MACDONALD COLLEGE.

November 24, 1925.

1. COMMITTEE . I had a conversation with Edgar Budge who is anxious to have a Committee meeting, so that their Executive can make their report. They wanted to have this before the Principal came back, but I stalled it off a little as I thought that too much discussion at present might not get us very far.

2. GRADUATE STUDIES. I had a talk with Dr. Ruttan who said he thought that the Staff at Macdonald, outside of Dr. Harrison, were opposed to any sort of graduate study and would not encourage people to go in for it. A little later Professor Lochhead came in, and I had quite a talk with him. He thinks on the contrary that the Staff are quite in favour of advanced work, even though it cannot be denied that in the case of most of them the especially practical lines which their work has followed will force them to depend a good deal on our Staff here for such work.

I had a conversation with Prof. Lloyd, in whose Department of course there has been a special difficulty, owing to the appointment of Dickson with which he did not agree. His idea was that it was quite impossible to fuse the staff of corresponding departments in the School of Agriculture and in the other Faculties. The argument is more or less this: that the doctor and the engineer need the same sort of elementary Physics, but the agricultural student needs a different sort. To the student of Agriculture again Botany is a subject which in one form or another takes in nearly half his work and has an intensely practical aspect. This is not the case with the student in Arts.

I had another talk with Dr. Ruttan who has a further difficulty, which is that most of the standards in scientific subjects in the School of Agriculture are very low, so that as matters stand at present a man coming from there to get a M. Sc. would not have nearly so high a standing in fundamental scientific subjects as the McGill student aiming at his M. Sc. He suggested the possibility of agricultural students studying at Macdonald only for an M. S. A. ( in Agronomy, etc.); for any other high degree ( M. Sc. ) they would be required to follow the ordinary requirements of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

There is a certain amount of complication at present owing to the fact that the status of Macdonald students will not be certain until Agriculture is definitely made into a Faculty. As soon as this happens all the regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research could be applied in the ordinary way and without any necessary feeling.

I had another conversation with Dr. Ruttan concerning general scientific organization within the University. He remarked that we had no place where general bacteriology was taught; that the student who wished to follow a subject must get it from Oertel's department which is primarily concerned with pathogenic bacteria, or from Starkey, and that we have plenty of room for bacteriology as a self contained subject.